

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 COA-02 L-03 IO-14 OIC-04 CG-00

AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 FEA-02 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00

FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 CEQ-02 COME-00 EB-11

EPA-04 NSF-04 SCI-06 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /271 W

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FROM USDEL LOS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS -- FIRST MEETING OF GENERAL COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY. GENERAL COMMITTEE (GC) HELD EFFICIENT 90 MINUTE MEETING AM 20 JUNE PRIOR TO FORMAL OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE LATER SAME DAY. EED THAT WORK OF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE ORGANIZED ESSENTIALLY ALONG LINES SUGGESTED BY SECRETARIAT IN PAPER A/CONF.62/BUR.1 END SUMMARY

2. DETAILS. AMONG PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATIONS GC AGREED TO MAKE TO THE CONFERENCE ARE: (A) PLENARY AND MAIN COMMITTEE MEETINGS WILL RUN FROM 10:30 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M. AND FROM 3:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M., WITH NIGHT SITTINGS AND SATURDAY MEETINGS AS NECESSARY. (B) DELS WISHING TO MAKE "GENERAL STATEMENTS" MAY DO SO BUT PERIOD FOR SAME WILL BE STRICTLY LIMITED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPENING DAYS OF THE CONFERENCE. PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE NOTED

THAT CONFERENCE HAD ALREADY, AT INAUGURAL SESSION LAST DECEMBER, DECIDED TO ADOPT RULES OF PROCEDURE NO LATER THAN 27 JUNE, HE SAID "GENERAL STATEMENTS" SHOULD ACCORDINGLY FOLLOW THEREAFTER. U.S. (STEVENS) SAID HE HOPED RULES WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN FORUM LESS FORMAL THAN PLENARY AND THAT, CONSEQUENTLY, PLENARY MIGHT HAVE TIME AVAILABLE FOR AT LEAST SOME GENERAL STATEMENTS EVEN IN THE INITIAL 20 - 27 JUNE PERIOD. AMERASINGHE AGREED THAT ANY SUCH FREE PLENARY TIME SHOULD BE SO USED. (C) THERE WAS NO DISSENT FROM AMERASINGHE STATEMENT THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING THAT GENERAL STATEMENTS SHOULD NOT EXCEED 15 MINUTES. (D) CONFERENCE WILL MEET 24 JUNE, VENEZUELAN HOLIDAY NOTWITHSTANDING.

3. TRADITIONAL SEATING ARRANGEMENT LOT-DRAWING PRODUCED KHMER REPUBLIC IN FIRST SEAT, WHICH IN TURN STIMULATED CHINESE OBJECTION AND REQUEST THAT KHMER REPUBLIC NAME BE DELETED FROM GC REPORT. AMERASINGHE IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED THAT KHMER REPUBLIC IS FULL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT, THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS OR NON-RELATIONS ARE IRRELEVANT, THAT GC'S REPORT SHOULD NOT BE THUS EXCISED, AND THAT PRC VIEWS WOULD BE NOTED IN SUMMARY RECORD. PRC DID NOT PERSIST.

4. ALLOCATION OF ITEMS AS BETWEEN PLENARY AND THE THREE MAIN COMMITTEES ATTRACTED LENGTHIER DISCUSSION. SECRETARIAT HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE VARIOUS ITEMS SHOULD BE ALLOCATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LIST OF SUBJECTS AND ISSUES APPROVED BY THE SEABED COMMITTEE IN AUGUST 1972. MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED IN THE GC INCLUDED: (A) ACCEPTANCE OF CHILEAN PROPOSAL THAT INTRODUCTORY LANGUAGE OF THIS SECTION OF THE REPORT TO PLENARY SHOULD NOTE THAT THE ALLOCATION HAD BEEN DRAWN UP "BEARING IN MIND THE INTRODUCTORY NOTE TO THE LIST OF ISSUES AS AGREED IN THE SEABEDS COMMITTEE", THUS STRESSING THE POINT THAT THE TERMS IN WHICH ANY SUBJECT OR ISSUE IS DESCRIBED AS WELL AS ITS PLACEMENT ARE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE(S) INVOLVED. (B) US SOUGHT AND OBTAINED CLARIFICATION FROM AMERASINGHE THAT SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES, WHICH HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO ALL THREE MAIN COMMITTEES, MAY ALSO BE RAISED IN PLENARY AND EVEN IN ADVANCE OF DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER IN ANY MAIN COMMITTEE. AMERASINGHE SIMILARLY CONFIRMED, AT STEVENS'S REQUEST, THAT PROVISIONAL APPLICATION MAY BE DISCUSSED IN PLENARY EVEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THOUGH THERE IS NO ITEM ON THIS MATTER. PERU OBSERVED THAT US SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO REOPEN THE LIST OF SUBJECTS, BUT DID NOT PRESS ITS OPINION. (C) AUSTRALIA, SUPPORTED BY NORWAY AND CANADA, OBJECTED TO SECRETARIAT'S RECOMMENDATION THAT, IN ADDITION TO ITEMS ALLOCATED TO COMMITTEE I, THERE SHOULD BE A FURTHER ALLOCATION TO COMMITTEE I OF "OTHER ITEMS OR SUBITEMS WHICH MAY BE CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE I IN SO FAR AS THEY ARE RELEVANT TO ITS MANDATE" UNDER WHICH WOULD APPEAR TWO ITEMS ENTITLED

"CONTINENTAL SHELF" AND "EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE BEYOND THE TERRITORIAL SEA". SINGAPORE AND FRG REGRETTED THE PROPOSED DELETION BUT IN THE END DID NOT OBJECT TO IT.

(SIMILAR NOTATIONS OF "OTHER ITEMS" FOR COMMITTEES II AND II WILL ALSO BE DELETED FOR REASONS OF CONSISTENCY.) (D) AMERASINGHE AGREED WITH US OBSERVATION THAT THE ALLOCATION OF ITEMS IS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO DETERMINATION BY EACH MAIN COMMITTEE OF WAY IT WILL CONDUCT ITS WORK, EACH BEING FREE TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF IN WHAT ORDER IT WILL TAKE UP THE ITEMS ALLOCATED TO IT.

5. FINALLY, SINGAPORE DID NOT PRESS ITS OBJECTION TO THE INCLUSION IN THE REPORT OF A FOOTNOTE TO THE LIST OF ALLOCATED ITEMS REFERRING TO THE 27 AUG 1971 AGREEMENT THAT PLENARY WILL NOT TAKE A FINAL DECISION ON LIMITS UNTIL COMMITTEE I AND II RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PRECISE DEFINITION OF THE AREA ARE IN HAND. STEVENSON

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